

NT Railway

The Northern Territory Government, which has long hoped to build a Darwin-Alice Springs railway, has 55 % of the 1410 km corridor needed to build the rail link. It has asked the Federal Government to use its powers of compulsory acquisition, if necessary to secure the 21% of the corridor which passes through Aboriginal land or is subject to claim. A key stimulus to proposals for the rail link is the volume of freight which could be taken to the new Darwin Port, scheduled to open in December next year (*Aus, 10 September, p 24*).

[Go back to contents](#)

Northern Territory sea claims

Claims by the fishing industry that sea claims in the Northern Territory could jeopardise its survival were dismissed by Mr Yumbulul, one of the traditional owners of the disputed area. Mr Yumbulul stated that exclusionary zones are not the aim, but rather the traditional owners sought to negotiate a joint management approach, which would allow visiting fishermen to use the area (*NTN, 30 August, p 4*).

The traditional owners of Croker Island have lodged a claim over 3000 square kilometres of sea surrounding the island. The Northern Territory News believes that if the claim is accepted, it would open the floodgates for dozens of other sea claims and give traditional owners effective control of most Northern Territory waters (*NTN, 3 September, p10*).

A group of traditional owners from the Manbunynga ga Rulyapa Steering Committee representing c 6000 Aborigines in North Eastern Arnhem Land said that Indonesia should be asked to protect Aboriginal sacred sites in waters off the Northern Territory as part of an international agreement on maritime zones. The Steering Committee said the Federal Government had failed to ensure sacred sites and fish stocks in the Arafura Sea would be protected under new arrangements for maritime boundaries.

[Go back to contents](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Due to the delays involved in getting this Newsletter to press, this month's publications segment is quite short.

Central Land Council, 1996, *The Land is Always Alive: The Story of the Central Land Council*. This report was compiled by Peter McEvoy and Pamela Lyon. It reviews the progress by Central Australian Aboriginal people in obtaining title to traditional lands year by year from the formation of the CLC in 1974, stressing the watershed formed by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* in changing the status of Aboriginal people from people supervised by 'the Welfare' or 'the Mission' to people with the power to take control of their own communities and their own lives.

Howitt, Richard, (Ed), with John Connell and Philip Hirsch, 1996. *Resources, Nations and Indigenous Peoples: Case Studies from Australasia, Melanesia and Southeast Asia*, Oxford University Press. This

volume contains a number of interesting essays on the Australian experience. These include Michael Christie and Bill Perrett's article on language and conceptual differences involved in negotiation between the Yolngu and non-Aboriginal negotiators; Sue Jackson's article on Aboriginal land and sea rights; Mary Edmunds' article on Aboriginal women and change, and Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh's article on negotiation with mining companies.

Sullivan, Patrick (Ed), 1996, *Shooting the Banker: Essays on ATSIC and Self-Determination*, North Australia Research Unit, Australian National University, Darwin. This volume of essays analyses questions to do with the Commission's organisational structure and its relation to ATSIC's operation over its first 6 years and into the future.

Sullivan Patrick, 1996. *The Needs of Prescribed Bodies Corporate Under the Native Title Act 1993 and NTA Regulations: A Report on Issues and Options*, North Australia Research Unit, Australian National University, Darwin. This report was prepared for the ATSIC Native Title Branch as a submission to the Review of the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976*.

[Go back to contents](#)

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